

## **Marine Corps University Policies**

### **Academic Freedom**

Academic freedom is essential to successful top-level education and is an institutional precept at the Marine Corps University. The University believes academic freedom for its faculty and students is fundamental and essential. Without academic freedom, the uninhibited search for insight and knowledge is not possible. The effective amalgam of academic freedom and individual responsibility that flows from that freedom is embodied in the following principal elements:

- Freedom to teach, conduct research, and publish research findings.
- Freedom to discuss in a classroom any material relevant to the subject matter as provided in the course objectives.
- Freedom to seek changes in academic and institutional policies.
- Responsibility to pursue excellence, intellectual honesty, and objectivity in teaching.
- Responsibility to encourage faculty, students, and colleagues to engage in free discussion and inquiry.
- Responsibility to encourage and nurture innovative critical thinking, discussion, and writing concerning national security issues and the enhancement of the standing and credibility of professional military education.

### **Faculty Participation in Academic Affairs**

Marine Corps University offers a unique blend of training and educational experiences for those who attend its schools and colleges. Central to the development, conduct, assessment, revision, and adaptation of the curricula of these schools and colleges within the University are its faculty. Carefully selected because of their operational expertise or academic excellence, these military and civilian professionals are the collective “center of gravity” of the University. Within each of the University’s schools and colleges, they are the hub of all power and movement, on which everything depends. The faculty “own” the curricula, and through a variety of processes within each school or college, the faculty are the primary engine through which MCU retains its curriculum standards, quality, and relevance.

### **Entrance Requirements and Procedures**

Individual college, school, and program admissions requirements can be found under their respective sections in this catalog. MCU upholds the highest standards in education with regards to its admissions policies for its three master’s degree programs. To be admitted to a MCU master’s degree program, a student must meet individual college and school admissions requirements, hold a regionally accredited undergraduate degree, and meet English proficiency requirements.

## **Student Rights and Responsibilities**

### **Student Rights:**

1. Right to be free from discrimination on the basis of race, gender, color, religion, and national origin.
2. Right to open and free expression of thoughts and concepts in an environment of academic freedom.
3. Right to ownership of appropriate intellectual property.
4. Right to due process and/or request mast.
5. Right to be free from sexual harassment.
6. Right to submit a written complaint on University policies, procedures, or actions through the MCU Chain of Command.

### **Student Responsibilities:**

1. Responsibility to abide by the academic policies and procedures of the University.
2. Responsibility to respect the opinions of other students.
3. Responsibility to prepare adequately for each class.
4. Responsibility to perform student leadership duties as assigned by faculty and administrators.
5. Responsibility to uphold academic integrity.
6. Responsibility for US military members to abide by the standards of the *Uniform Code of Military Justice*, and for non-US military students to abide by appropriate department or agency rules, regulations, and standards of conduct.

## **Student Complaint Procedures**

Students will attempt to resolve complaints starting at the lowest level in the chain of command. Generally, the students' assigned Faculty Advisors will serve as the lowest level. Others in the chain of command include course directors, deans, deputy directors, and directors. The President, Marine Corps University, will serve as the final adjudicating authority for resolving students' complaints. If students feel the situation cannot be properly addressed through their Faculty Advisors and/or their chain of command, the formal Marine Corps Request Mast procedure is available to all students. The Request Mast procedure is a formal means for students to communicate directly to, and receive a timely response from, a College Director or the Marine Corps University President. Additionally, Marine Corps University endorses and adheres to the Commission on Colleges policy statement "Complaint Procedures and the Commission or its Accredited Institutions."